

Results-based Plan Briefing Book 2008-09

Ministry of the Environment

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Ce document est disponible en français

MINISTRY OVERVIEW

MISSION:

Working with all Ontarians and engaging partnerships with business and governments to prevent pollution, restore and protect the environment to enhance public health, environmental quality and economic vitality.

VISION:

An Ontario with clean and safe air, land and water that contributes to healthy communities, ecological protection and sustainable development for present and future generations.

MINISTRY OVERVIEW STATEMENT

Ministry of the Environment (MOE) activities contribute to the government's key priority **"Better Health,"** as well as to the result **"Preventing illness, promoting wellness"** and the supporting result **"Reducing environmental pollution."**

MOE has comprehensive environmental protections built on a strong foundation of clear laws, stringent regulations, tough standards and rigorous permits and approvals.

The ministry monitors pollution and restoration trends to determine the effectiveness of its activities and to assess risks to human health and the environment. This information is used to develop and implement the ministry's environmental legislation, regulations, standards, policies, guidelines and programs. MOE's inspection, investigation and enforcement activities are integral to achieving Ontario's environmental goals.

MOE will help protect the health of Ontarians by:

- delivering on Ontario's climate change strategy;
- taking action on toxic substances in the environment, including banning the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic purposes;
- safeguarding Ontario's drinking water from source-to-tap by developing legislation, policies and programs, monitoring water quality and enforcing regulations;
- protecting and enhancing our lakes and rivers, including Lake Simcoe and the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;
- maximizing waste diversion and the clean-up of environmentally contaminated sites;
- improving the government's ability to protect Ontario's environment by enhancing inspection, enforcement, and laboratory and monitoring capabilities; and,
- investing in environmental science and promoting environmental education.

MOE will enhance citizen participation in government decisions through the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry which will provide better access to information on environmental initiatives.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECTING ONTARIO'S AIR

In June 2007, the Premier announced Go Green: Ontario's Action Plan on Climate Change. Go Green will significantly reduce Ontario's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels by 2020.

The following MOE investments will assist in the delivery of Ontario's climate change strategy:

- establishment of a committee of prominent Canadians from the scientific, academic, engineering and environmental communities with a mandate to help the Ontario government, municipalities and Ontarians prepare and plan for the impact of climate change on health, environment and infrastructure;
- enactment of a regulation prohibiting the use of coal to generate electricity at Nanticoke, Atikokan, Lambton and Thunder Bay after December 31, 2014;
- working with neighbouring US jurisdictions to explore ways to reduce transboundary air pollution;
- implementation of Regulation 419 to protect local air quality;
- joining as observers to key U.S. state level initiatives, including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the Western Climate Initiative, and the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Accord to move ahead in the fight against climate change and open dialogue on GHG reduction targets with U.S. governors; and,
- implementing a Community Go Green Fund to support not-for-profit groups for local projects that reduce GHG emissions, provide outreach and education, and promote long-term behaviour changes.

REDUCING TOXICS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

MOE is making investments to protect Ontarians' health by taking action on toxic substances, including:

- appointing an expert medical and scientific panel to provide advice on which toxins need immediate attention, action and reduction;
- developing a toxics reduction strategy that will include the development of new toxic reduction legislation that will require companies that emit toxic substances to reduce their emissions over time;
- working with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and the Ministry of Research and Innovation on initiatives and strategies to support the development of new technologies to reduce industry reliance on toxic chemicals;
- banning the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic purposes, which will foster the development and sale of green alternatives that are better for the environment and the health of Ontario families; and,
- eliminating polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated soil stored in London with additional investments to clean up other contaminated sites that pose threats to human health.

PROTECTING ONTARIO'S WATER

Key initiatives include:

- continuing to protect provincial water resources by passing the *Sustaining and Safeguarding Ontario's Water Act, 2007* banning diversions from the Great Lakes;
- mandatory charges for commercial and industrial users for the water they take and use;
- implementing a long-term strategy to create stronger protection for Lake Simcoe;
- informing the public about the state of Ontario's drinking water through the release of the Chief Drinking Water Inspector's report and the Minister's Annual Drinking Water Report;
- providing a stewardship fund to rural property owners for actions to protect drinking water sources in vulnerable areas;
- restoring and sustaining the Great Lakes by signing and implementing the 2007-2010 Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem with the federal government;
- implementing the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and the first series of regulations under the Act to help communities develop plans that will protect drinking water sources; and,
- delivering a Lead Action Plan aimed at addressing the issue of elevated levels of lead in drinking water.

WASTE DIVERSION

The ministry will continue to move ahead with its commitments to manage waste effectively and expand on land restoration activities in the province by:

- encouraging diversion of materials disposed from landfill sites by streamlining the approval process for the recycling of certain materials, as well as for pilot projects that encourage innovative waste technologies and convert certain types of waste into alternative fuels;
- working with Waste Diversion Ontario to develop and fund diversion programs for household hazardous waste, electronics waste and special materials;
- increasing recycling compliance at industrial, commercial and institutional facilities;
- removing 300,000 tires illegally stored in Middlesex County and reviewing the inventory of scrap tires in the province;
- improving knowledge of landfill sites and capacity in the province; and,
- enhancing oversight of the Brownfields program to manage risks related to increased liability protection for the private sector.

EFFECTIVE MONITORING, COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Key initiatives include:

- increasing capacity for inspection and enforcement, while strengthening the integration of risk and performance-based strategies to improve compliance with environmental laws; and,
- modernizing MOE's laboratory and monitoring facility and equipment which is critical for water, air and soil sample analysis, monitoring and reporting.

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION

Ministry Administration provides strategic support for fiscal controllership and strategic management oversight, including financial management, human resources, audit, technology operations, legal, communications and French language services. It also includes the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry, which enhances citizen participation in government decisions and provides more information to the public on environmental initiatives.

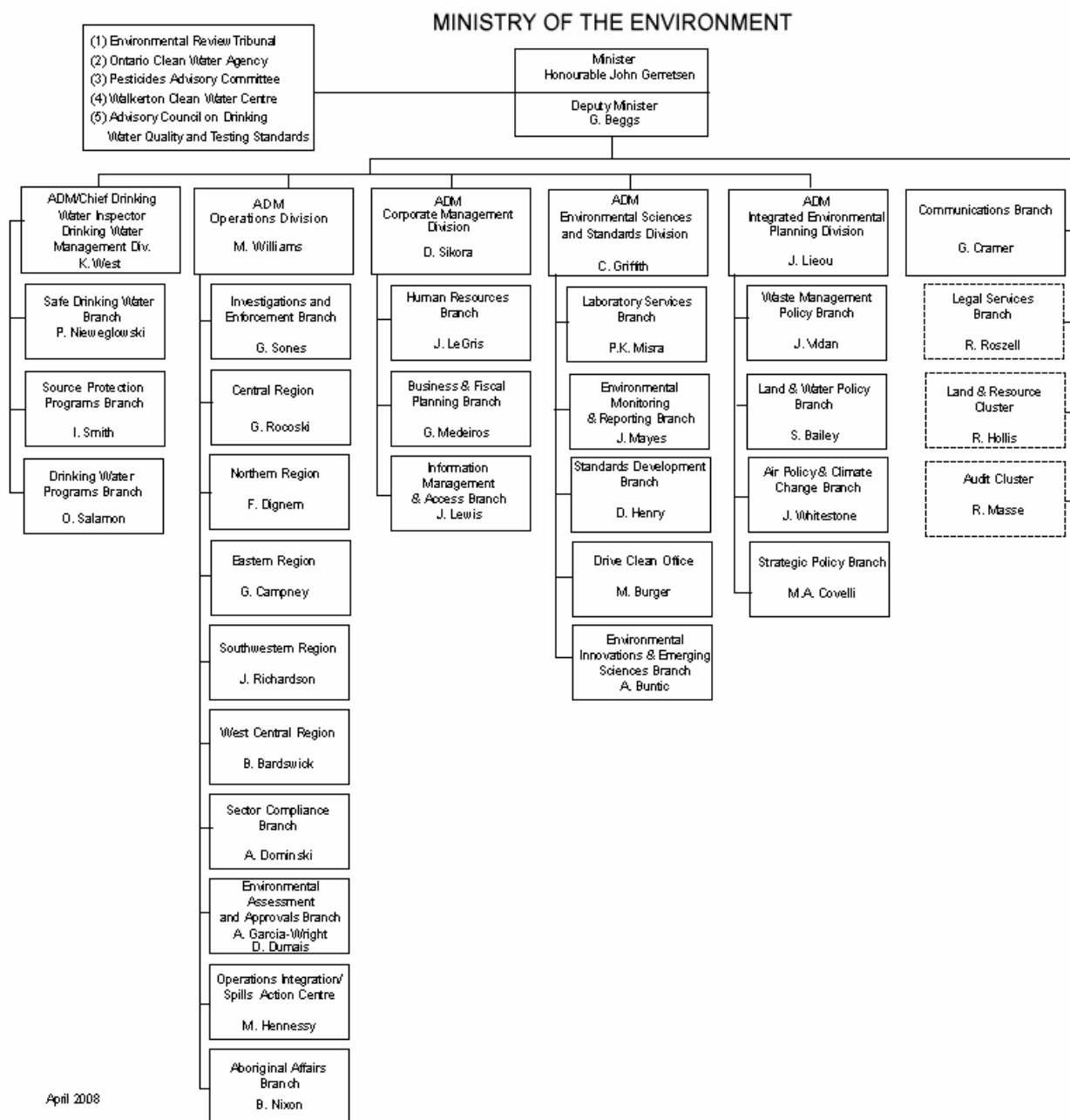
Ministry Administration supports the ministry's accommodations needs by providing efficient and cost-effective services. It also supports the ministry's innovation program, which promotes knowledge sharing and identifies leading scientific expertise and best practices to incorporate into the ministry's day-to-day operations and its longer-term decision-making strategy.

MINISTRY KEY RESULTS

By delivering on these government priorities, the ministry strives to achieve these key results:

- delivering on Ontario's climate change strategy;
- reducing toxic substances and cancer causing agents in the environment;
- banning the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic purposes;
- protecting and enhancing our lakes and rivers, including Lake Simcoe and the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;
- maximizing waste diversion;
- safeguarding drinking water from source to tap;
- modernizing approvals and reducing regulatory burden;
- cleaning up environmentally contaminated sites;
- increasing the number of front line inspectors; and,
- investing in environmental science and promoting environmental education.

MINISTRY ORGANIZATION CHART



LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY

Adams Mine Lake Act, 2004

Capital Investment Plan Act, 1993 (Part IV re: Ontario Clean Water Agency only)

Clean Water Act, 2006

Consolidated Hearings Act

Environmental Assessment Act

Environmental Bill of Rights

Environmental Protection Act

Environmental Review Tribunal Act, 2000

Ministry of the Environment Act

Municipal Water and Sewage Transfer Act, 1997

Nutrient Management Act, 2002 (together with The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs)

Ontario Water Resources Act

Pesticides Act

Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002

Sustainable Water and Sewage Systems Act, 2002

Waste Diversion Act, 2002

Waste Management Act, 1992

Waterfront Regeneration Trust Agency Act, 1992

AGENCIES, BOARDS & COMMITTEES (ABCs)

	ESTIMATES 2008-09	INTERIM ACTUALS 2007-08	ACTUALS 2006-07
	\$	\$	\$
Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards	235,100	254,876	208,403
Environmental Review Tribunal	1,914,400	1,577,118	1,507,155
Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee	195,600	134,201	138,772
Total Agencies, Boards & Committees (ABCs)	2,345,100	1,966,195	1,854,330

NOTE: The ministry will contribute \$5 million to the Walkerton Clean Water Centre in 2008-09. Detailed financial information for Ontario Clean Water Agency and Walkerton Clean Water Centre are provided in their Business Plans.

MINISTRY PLANNED EXPENDITURE 2008/09

	ESTIMATES 2008-09
	\$
OPERATING	352,932,314
CAPITAL	45,090,000
Total Operating and Capital	398,022,314

MINISTRY PLANNED EXPENDITURE 2008/09

VOTE/PROGRAMS	ESTIMATES 2008-09
	\$
MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION	
Strategic Management Support	58,107,600
Ministry Administration Total	58,107,600
AIR	
Smog and Air Toxics Reduction	51,446,400
Drive Clean	19,149,700
Climate Change	17,175,100
Air Capital	3,059,000
Air Total	90,830,200
WATER	
Clean Water	102,035,200
Source Protection	44,947,100
Nutrient Management	8,804,500
Water Capital	16,664,000
Water Total	172,450,800
WASTE	
Non-Hazardous Waste Reduction	18,128,100
Hazardous Waste Management	16,625,100
Land Restoration	11,447,500
Waste Capital	25,367,000
Waste Total	71,567,700
CONSOLIDATION ADJUSTMENT - LCBO	5,000,000
STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS	66,014
Total Operating and Capital	398,022,314

APPENDIX:

ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

2007/08 ANNUAL REPORT

CLEANER AIR

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) invested in a number of initiatives aimed at improving our understanding of the sources and impacts of air pollution and greenhouse gases, finding adaptive solutions to existing and imminent climate change impacts, and at reducing emissions.

As part of its climate change plan, MOE established the Expert Panel on Climate Change Adaptation to provide advice to government on planning and preparing for the impact of climate change on health, environment and infrastructure. The ministry, in partnership with the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, hosted a national climate change adaptation summit, which solicited practical advice to governments across Canada and established a community of practice between leading scientists and experts and policy leaders across jurisdictions.

MOE is taking a leadership role in understanding the impacts of climate change through support for research by organizations such as Ontario Centre for Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR).

MOE joined as observers to key U.S. state level initiatives including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the Western Climate Initiative to move ahead in the fight against climate change and open dialogue on greenhouse gas reduction targets with U.S. governors.

Ontario implemented a Community Go Green Fund to support not-for-profit groups for local projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide outreach and education, and promote long-term behaviour changes.

Ontario continued its fight against climate change by switching to the deep lake water cooling system at Queen's Park, which uses water from Lake Ontario to cool offices, and leads to a 90 per cent reduction in electricity use for cooling Queen's Park.

Ontario established a working group of experts in emissions trading and worked with the environmental community to develop protocols for carbon offsets.

MOE set 19 new or updated air standards for 14 toxic substances, including lead, under the Air Pollution – Local Air Quality regulation.

Ontario signed an agreement with New Brunswick to reduce transboundary air pollution, improve regional air quality and to help address climate change.

MOE proposed to phase-out potent greenhouse gas and ozone-depleting substances (i.e. chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)) in large refrigeration equipment and chillers - and to designate surplus CFCs as hazardous waste – by 2012.

The government appointed an expert medical and scientific panel to provide advice on which toxins need immediate attention, action and reduction. This is part of a Toxic Reduction Strategy which will include the introduction of new toxic reduction legislation.

Ontario announced its first stage of consultation with Ontarians on how to shape legislation banning the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic purposes.

CLEANER WATER

Work continued on implementing the *Clean Water Act, 2006* including the proclamation of the first series of regulations under the Act to protect Ontario's natural supply of water from source to tap.

All 121 recommendations in the Report of the Walkerton Inquiry have now been implemented.

Ontario developed and implemented an action plan to address lead in water based on the recommendations made by its Drinking Water Advisory Council.

MOE passed the *Safeguarding and Sustaining Ontario's Water Act, 2007* banning the diversion of water from the Great Lakes Basin, and permitting commercial and industrial users to be charged for the water they take and use.

Ontario finalized new regulations that set the toughest penalty regime in Canada for those companies that spill, a further measure to protect Ontario's water sources.

Ontario received its second annual report from the province's Chief Drinking Water Inspector which gave an overview of the quality of drinking water in Ontario and the major programs and services that are part of the safety net the government has put in place.

MOE carried out changes to the well regulation to ensure that wells are properly constructed and maintained.

Ontario signed and started implementation of the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem with the federal government.

Ontario committed itself to developing legislation and programs to protect Lake Simcoe and created a Lake Simcoe Science Advisory Committee.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE AND LAND RESTORATION

The Minister of the Environment approved a new program to double the amount of household hazardous or special waste that Ontario diverts from landfills and other forms of disposal over the next five years.

Since the 'Bag it Back Program' was launched a year ago, consumers are on track to return 65 per cent of their alcohol containers to the Beer Store.

MOE consulted on a regulation that will make it mandatory for new, expanding and existing landfills larger than 1.5 million cubic metres to install a system to capture methane.

The ministry increased its environmental enforcement inspections to focus on increasing waste diversion in business and industry across Ontario.

MOE finalized a new regulation to ban the practice of burning of used oil in space heaters; the ban will come into force on June 1, 2009.

The ministry directed Waste Diversion Ontario to develop a new industry-funded waste diversion program for electronic wastes.

Ontario joined forces with industry leaders to reduce the use of plastic bags by 50 per cent over five years.

The ministry supported the Waste-Free Lunch Challenge, a program that teaches children and youth about consumer packaging, and how to reduce the waste they produce every day by making better choices about what goes into their lunches.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

MOE announced its efforts to strengthen environmental education by continuing to support the Eco-Schools program and launched two youth websites to explain the challenges facing our planet and inspire them to take actions that protect the environment.

MINISTRY INTERIM ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2007/08

	Ministry Interim Actual Expenditures (\$M) 2007/08
Operating	\$307.9
Capital	\$41.4
Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2008)	2,181

* Interim actuals reflect the numbers presented in the Ontario Budget.